



**United States Border Patrol
San Diego Sector
Public Information Office
2411 Boswell Road
San Diego, California 91914-3519
(619) 216-4182**



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 27, 2000

BORDER PATROL AGENTS SEIZE 190 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA ON THE BORDER NEAR OTAY MESA AND 3 LBS. OF COCAINE IN THE NORTH COUNTY

San Clemente, California: On June 27, 2000, at approximately 5:50 p.m., Border Patrol Agents encountered a white, 1999, Pontiac Grand Prix at the Interstate 5 traffic checkpoint. As the driver, a United States citizen born in Puerto Rico, approached primary inspection, Agents noticed his nervous demeanor. When stopped at primary inspection the driver and the passenger, also a United States citizen born in Puerto Rico became extremely nervous. The vehicle and passengers were then referred to secondary inspection for further questioning.

Once in secondary inspection the driver and passenger of the vehicle began shaking while speaking with agents. When asked if they could search the vehicle with a K-9, the driver consented. The K-9 then alerted on the vehicle and agents began to look closer at the interior of the vehicle. While this search was being conducted Agents noticed that the passenger of the vehicle was wearing a large belt under his shirt, around his stomach and back. When agents asked this individual why he was wearing the belt he stated, "Is droga man." When asked again he stated "Cocaine." Agents then removed the belt revealing a plastic wrapped package containing approximately 3 pounds of cocaine, valued at \$83, 200.00. This is the first cocaine seizure for the month of June and the twenty-first this fiscal year for San Diego Sector.

Otay Mesa, California: On June 27, 2000 at approximately 6:00 p.m., Agents working the Otay Mesa Port of Entry area received a report of a vehicle that had fled from the inspection area. Agents began to scour the area attempting to locate the vehicle, a 1986 Jeep Cherokee.

Within seconds, agents observed a vehicle matching this description in the parking lot of the Café Vallarra, located near the port of entry and notified U.S. Customs. Customs and Border Patrol Agents approached the vehicle finding it unoccupied and requested a Customs K-9. The K-9 alerted on the vehicle and the Jeep was then transported to the port for further inspection. The search revealed 190 pounds of marijuana valued at \$152,080.00 concealed in the tires of the vehicle. In a joint effort, Customs and Border Patrol Agents continued to search the area but were unable to locate the driver of the vehicle. U.S. Customs assumed custody of the narcotics and the vehicle. This seizure was the fortieth for the month of June totaling 1486 pounds with a value of \$1,190,741.18 for San Diego Sector.

File footage available upon request